DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.70/454

767.71/5

SEE ~~767.71/5~~ FOR #18

FROM Rumania (Owsley) DATED Oct.20, 1933

TO NAME 1—1127 ers

REGARDING:

Effect of treaty of friendship, non-aggression and arbitration between Turkey and Rumania on Turkey's relations with the Little Entente and other Balkan States.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.70/455

SEE 767.00/52 FOR #51

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED Nov.27, 1933
TO
NAME

I—1127 ofo

REGARDING:

Rumors of the conclusion of a multilateral Balkan pact in Belgrade between Turkey, Yugoslavia, Greece and Rumania.

455

W1

No. 51 Istanbul, Turkey, November 27, 1933.

Subject: The Turkish Foreign Minister Visits Athens and Belgrade.

767.00/52

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

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033.6768
767.70
767.74
760H.67

Sir:

The indefatigable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tefvik Rüştü Bey, who seems to do more travelling hither and thither than any other present day statesman, is now absent on a journey to Athens and Belgrade, accompanied by deputy Recep Bey, Secretary General of the People's Party; Refik Amir Bey, and Mehmed Cevat Bey from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tefvik Rüştü Bey's project was first announced as a visit to Belgrade for the purpose of signing a Turco-Yugoslav Treaty of Friendship, Neutrality and Arbitration drawn

up

up in Geneva some time ago, and when, on the eve of his departure, he stated that he was going to Athens first, a good deal of political speculation followed. Almost immediately there were rumors of the probable conclusion of a multilateral Balkan pact in Belgrade between Turkey, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Rumania, a project ascribed to the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Titulescu, and which, should Bulgaria and Albania refuse to sign, would insure their political isolation. However, it was soon pointed out that this "news" was premature, although no doubt it gave the Bulgarians a good deal to think about, and it was said that the bilateral agreements existing at present between the Balkan States were sufficient for the moment.

Later on, in a statement given to press representatives in Athens and published here, Tefvik Rüştü Bey admitted the possibility of being confronted by "proposals of a more general nature" at Belgrade, and explained his visit to Athens as an act in compliance with the recent Turco-Greek pact providing for close cooperation and exchange of views of all political matters between the two Governments. In fact, the official Greek communiqué issued on November 26th stressed that the "questions relating to the consolidation of peace in the Balkan peninsula" had been "examined specifically."

Tefvik Rüştü Bey's choice of the longer route to Belgrade by way of Athens, by sea and rail instead

stead of the shorter all rail route to Sofia,, brought forth some acrimonious comments in the Bulgarian press which attributed to the aimiable Turkish Foreign Minister, who abounds in professions favorable to universal peace, a desire to encircle and isolate Bulgaria . The following extracts from an interview granted by Tefvik Rüştü Bey to the Athenian press, and reproduced here, relating to Bulgarian territorial aspirations, would hardly seem to be of a nature to appease Bulgarian susceptibilities:

> "In reply to a question as to the movement concerning the granting to Bulgaria of an outlet to the Aegean, Tevfik Rüştü Bey replied as follows:
>
> 'As far as we are concerned this question exists only from an economic standpoint. ...'
>
> "Replying to an allusion to the demands made by certain parties concerning the revision of treaties Tevfik Rüştü Bey stated:
>
> 'The signing of a treaty automatically implies the obligation relative to its observance. When a state demands revision of treaties it shows that it does not respect its obligations.'
>
> "Tevfik Rüştü Bey added the following:
>
> 'Excepting the exchange of territories with mutual consent ... I know of no instance in history in which a country claims territory from another country of which it pretends to be a friend. A country may have aspirations on the territory of another country but in that case it can hardly claim to be a friend of that particular country. ... One has to take into consideration the lessons of the past. ... Consequently all differences must be settled by means of understandings and agreements.'
>
> 'As far as we Turks are concerned, if we were offered a continent, not a single Turk would be willing to risk even one of his fingers for it. However, if they wished to take away from

from us a part of our territory, 17 million Turks will be ready to sacrifice their lives in its defense.'

"Talking thereupon on the subject of Turco-Greek relations Tevfik Rüştü Bey stated that both nations were 'united like one country.'"

Turkish press comments so far on Tevfik Rüştü Bey's visit to Athens and Belgrade stress as usual the purely pacific factors and considerations motivating Turkey's foreign policy, but nevertheless point out the dissatisfaction created in official Turkish circles by Bulgaria's attitude. For example, today's editorial of the LA TURQUIE, signed by deputy Mahmut Bey, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Grand National Assembly, carries the following passage:

"We must say that we are not very satisfied with the line of conduct adopted by Bulgaria in the Balkans. The Bulgarians have not been able as yet to give to their foreign policy an adequate and stable course. The same incertitude, the same indecision still prevails in Sofia."

Commenting on the rumors about the conclusion of a Balkan four-power-pact referred to above in this despatch, the same author states as follows:

"Certain newspapers have lately been talking about a four-power-pact which it is claimed will be concluded in the Balkans. ... These papers are premature in their predictions. What is expected of treaties and pacts deprived of a practical value? ... The best evidence of this truth is furnished us by the four-power-pact between the great powers, which died even before it was born. For us the Balkan Union is an ideal which we shall attain at any cost. But this ideal is such that its materialization shall not affect any country or disappoint any of them."

"Those who are working for peace in the Balkans endeavor to prepare these very conditions.

tions."

In addition to the signature of a pact of neutrality, friendship and arbitration, Tevfik Rüştü Bey is expected to negotiate in Belgrade a final agreement concerning the manner of indemnification of the Turkish property confiscated by the Yugoslav authorities. Tevfik Rüştü Bey will be back about Thursday. He may, on his return, pass through Sofia.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner,
American Ambassador.

Copy sent to Amlegation, Athens.
Copy sent to Amconsulate General, Beirut.

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.70/456

SEE 767.68119/907 FOR #82

FROM Rumania (Hibbard) DATED May 1, 1936

NAME

TO

1—1127 ofo

REGARDING: Modification of Straits Convention.

Failure of Turkey to consult members of the Balkan Entente concerning -.

Wi

Central File: Decimal File 767.70, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Turkey And Balkan States, Oct. 20, 1933 - May 1, 1936. October 20, 1933 - May 1, 1936. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111393787%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.